

103D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 522

To provide a grant to a nonprofit private organization to establish and operate a national domestic violence hotline.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 21, 1993

Mrs. MORELLA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To provide a grant to a nonprofit private organization to establish and operate a national domestic violence hotline.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “National Domestic Vio-
5 lence Hotline Act of 1993”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) 4,000,000 women are battered by their
9 partners each year, of which 4,000 die as a result
10 of such abuse;

1 (2) victims of domestic violence need access to
2 resources which will refer such victims and their
3 children to safe homes and shelters; and

4 (3) there is a need for a national domestic vio-
5 lence hotline to provide information and assistance
6 to victims of domestic violence because a privately-
7 funded national domestic violence hotline which han-
8 dled more than 65,000 crisis calls annually no longer
9 exists.

10 **SEC. 3. GRANT FOR NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOT-**
11 **LINE.**

12 The Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (42
13 U.S.C. 10401 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
14 the following new section:

15 **“SEC. 316. NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE**
16 **GRANT.**

17 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide a
18 grant to a nonprofit private organization to establish and
19 operate a national, toll-free telephone hotline to provide
20 information and assistance to victims of domestic violence.
21 A grant provided under this subsection may extend over
22 a period of not more than 3 fiscal years and the provision
23 of payments under such grant shall be subject to the an-
24 nual approval by the Secretary and subject to the avail-

1 ability of appropriations for the fiscal year involved to
2 make the payments.

3 “(b) APPLICATION.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may not
5 provide a grant under subsection (a) unless an appli-
6 cation that meets the requirements of paragraph (2)
7 has been approved by the Secretary.

8 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—An application meets
9 the requirements of this paragraph if the applica-
10 tion—

11 “(A) contains such agreements, assur-
12 ances, and information, and is in such form and
13 submitted in such manner as the Secretary
14 shall prescribe through notice in the Federal
15 Register;

16 “(B) demonstrates that the applicant has
17 nationally recognized expertise in the area of
18 domestic violence and a record of high quality
19 service to victims of domestic violence, including
20 support from advocacy groups, particularly
21 State coalitions and recognized national domes-
22 tic violence groups;

23 “(C) demonstrates that the applicant has a
24 commitment to diversity, including the hiring of
25 and provision of services to ethnic, racial, cul-

1 tural, and non-English speaking minorities, in
2 addition to older individuals and individuals
3 with disabilities;

4 “(D) demonstrates that the applicant has
5 the ability to integrate the hotline into existing
6 services provided by the applicant to victims of
7 domestic violence;

8 “(E) includes a complete description of the
9 applicant’s plan for the establishment and oper-
10 ation of the hotline, including a description of—

11 “(i) the hiring criteria and training
12 program for hotline personnel;

13 “(ii) the methods for the creation,
14 maintenance, and updating of a resource
15 database for the hotline;

16 “(iii) a plan for providing service on a
17 24-hour-a-day basis to non-English speak-
18 ing callers, including hotline personnel who
19 speak Spanish;

20 “(iv) a plan for access to the hotline
21 by individuals with hearing impairments;
22 and

23 “(v) a plan for publicizing the avail-
24 ability of the hotline; and

1 “(F) contains such other information as
2 the Secretary may require.

3 “(c) SELECTION.—The Secretary shall select a non-
4 profit private organization to receive a grant under sub-
5 section (a) which has been in existence for at least 5 years
6 from the date of submission of the application by the orga-
7 nization.

8 “(d) USES.—A grant made under subsection (a) shall
9 be used to establish and operate a national, toll-free tele-
10 phone hotline to provide information and assistance to vic-
11 tims of domestic violence. In establishing and operating
12 the hotline, a nonprofit private organization shall—

13 “(1) contract with a carrier for the use of a
14 toll-free telephone line;

15 “(2) employ, train, and supervise personnel to
16 answer incoming calls and provide counseling and
17 referral services to callers on a 24-hour-a-day basis;

18 “(3) establish, maintain, and update a database
19 of information relating to services for victims of do-
20 mestic violence, including information on the avail-
21 ability of shelters that serve battered women; and

22 “(4) publicize the hotline to potential users
23 throughout the United States.

24 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be
2 appropriated to carry out this section \$1,000,000 for
3 each of the fiscal years 1994 through 1996.

4 “(2) AVAILABILITY.—Funds authorized to be
5 appropriated under paragraph (1) shall remain
6 available until expended.”.

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